

**Meeting Minutes – Indiana Native American Indian Affairs Commission (INAIAC)**  
**Civil Rights Subcommittee**  
Thursday, January 7, 2016  
10:00am – 11:00am EDT  
Via Conference Call

The Civil Rights Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:02am EDT

**Commissioners Present:** Chief John Boyd, Dave Liebel

**Commissioners Not Present:** John P. Warren, Tracy Locke

**Volunteers Present:** Debra Haza, Sally Tuttle, John Plunkett

**Staff Present:** Kerry Steiner, Executive Director

The minutes of the June 24, 2015 Civil Rights Subcommittee meeting could not be approved since there was not a quorum, nor could the proposed agenda change be approved.

**Agenda Item: Use of R-word in Schools**

Kerry Steiner reported that the Goshen School District has officially adopted a new mascot name: The RedHawks. As of the time of this meeting there are no other schools known to be going through the mascot-changing process.

**Agenda Item: Spiritual Ceremony in Correctional Facilities**

Kerry Steiner updated the committee members about the drum that was retrieved from the Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) to be repaired. Once it has been fixed then Dave Liebel will let us know if the drum will go back to MCF or taken to another location. Since the layout of MCF is such that it has two different sides (wings) the repaired drum will likely go to the other side/wing of the facility.

**Donation of Pipe**

A member of the public, Charles Fulkman, made and donated a pipe to the Plainfield Correctional Facility during a ceremony in remembrance of Wounded Knee. Kerry Steiner explained that the pipe will be awakened in a sweat lodge ceremony this Spring, which is when the lodge will probably be built. Dave Liebel asked John Plunkett where he thought the sweat lodge would go and John replied it would probably be built outside the north door of the chapel. John Plunkett asked Dave Liebel about the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the sweat lodge and Dave said he would welcome any input or suggestions John could make. John stated he has the SOP for another facility and could send it to Dave, along with his suggestions, so the SOP would be ready and in place by the time the sweat lodge is completed.

**Volunteers**

Kerry Steiner stated there is still a need for volunteers and that this seems to be one of the biggest challenges. Kerry asked if DOC has ever tried recruiting volunteers and what we might be able to do differently to get better results. Dave Liebel offered to either attend, or have a chaplain attend, a powwow or gathering to help recruit volunteers from people who visit our booth. Kerry Steiner suggested maybe visiting churches in the area of each facility to see if any members of their congregation would be willing to volunteer – more as a monitor rather than a teacher – but Sally Tuttle

stated this has been tried in the past and it didn't work. Dave Liebel agreed and added that sometimes people from local churches want to go into a facility with the intention of converting the inmates to their faith. Dave said to refer potential volunteers to either him or the chaplain at the facility nearest to the potential volunteer.

### **Agenda Item: Geographical Features that Contain the Word 'Squaw'**

Kerry Steiner reported that there are seven geographical features that contain the word 'squaw' and that they're scattered across the state. She asked if we should contact the tribes who used to live in this area and see if they had suggestions for the new names; however, if we did so the question would be, which map do we use? In one map the Shawnee may have lived in a certain area and in another map 20 years later that area might have been occupied by another tribe. Dave Liebel suggested the Commission come up with names and we ask the tribes if they have any objections to them. John Plunkett suggested we use a map from before the

### **Intern's Research**

Kerry Steiner reported that it's been a challenge connecting with the interns now that school is out and she will continue to try and do so. John Warren added that it's important we make clear that the certificates of appreciation are only awarded to those who turn in quality work in the timeframe it was agreed upon, which is the end of July.

### **Educational Materials for DOC**

As a follow-up to the discussion held during the Civil Rights Subcommittee meeting on May 14, 2015, Kerry Steiner asked Dave Liebel the best way to create and distribute educational videos, DVDs, etc., by way of YouTube, Skype and/or CCTV within the Department of Correction. He recommended we find things on DVDs or that can be downloaded since the facilities have the equipment for them. John Warren asked if the DOC has an IT person and if we could get someone to assist us with filming cultural teachings and develop them as DVDs over a period of one to two years. Kerry Steiner added that a YouTube channel was recently created for INAIAC; however, Dave Liebel added that access to the internet is not always a viable option.

The goal of these videos was discussed, such as creating ones about singing, dancing, smudging and cultural events or ceremonies such as feasts and dances from different tribes; another angle might be to do interviews where people are asked questions such as why they dance and the meaning of their regalia. Dave Liebel recommended we get a release form that outlines the purpose of the videos and to give people the option as to where it's used, i.e., the internet, education, DVD, etc. Dave Liebel also suggested we focus on Native life in Indiana and use area interns or connect with colleges such as the IU School of Journalism. John Warren offered that we could invite someone from the media to help formulate plans and goals based upon the Commission's decision. Dave Liebel and Kerry Steiner will work together on inviting media reps to our meeting.

Tracy Locke suggested these DVDs also fit the goals of the Education Subcommittee. Dave Liebel suggested bringing in historians from the historic tribes of Indiana and Chief John Boyd said the Wea Tribe has a historian who has written some books on the Wea and Miami.

The Civil Rights Subcommittee meeting adjourned at 11:25am.